

In the Abstract

Please substitute the following amended Abstract for the Abstract as currently pending (deleted matter is shown by strikethrough and added matter is shown by underlining):

An electric steering lock (~~100~~) capable of outputting a signal correctly indicating an operation state of a steering lock mechanism (~~8~~) even when the operation voltage of a lock detector (~~20, 21~~) decreases. The electric steering lock includes a CPU (~~19~~), a signal hold circuit (~~22~~), and an OR circuit (~~23~~). When the steering lock mechanism (~~8~~) unlocks a steering wheel (~~16~~), an unlock sensor provides an H level detection signal (S_{UL}) to the CPU and the signal hold circuit. In response to the detection signal, the CPU issues a state hold command to the signal hold circuit. In response to the state hold command, the signal hold circuit generates an H level hold signal in correspondence with the detection signal. The OR circuit provides an H level signal (S_a) to an immobilizer ECU (~~7~~) when at least one of the detection signal from the unlock sensor or the hold signal has an H level.